

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

June 15, 2026

The Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting of Council was called to order by President Shipp beginning at 7:05 p.m. in the David J. Cook Council Chambers following the annual meeting of the Community Improvement Corporation.

Council Members' Present: President Shipp, Mr. Moran, Ms. Havemann, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Furry, Ms. Gallagher & Ms. Morris

Absent: Director Snyder

Administration: Mayor Bobst, Law Director O'Shea, Director Lindow

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MAYOR REPORT:

Mayor Bobst noted that yesterday was Flag Day and it was beautiful to see so many flags flying throughout the City and thanked the community for their expression of patriotism. She noted that the storm yesterday knocked out power in a few neighborhoods including Tangletown and East of Wagar. There were a few trees down and including one significant tree at Eldora and Lakeview. She received a wonderful accolade from a resident praising the service department's kind and courteous resolution as it was covering the roadway.

Mayor Bobst advised that Healthy Rocky River took place on Saturday in Linden Park and there were several hundred people in attendance and the event included a successful bike parade, fitness classes, and bounce house for kids.

Mayor Bobst took a moment to give accolades to Michelle Root in her office. Michelle has been with the City for about a year. The Cleveland Magazine insert became her project and she did a wonderful job staying on top of it. It takes many people to work on the insert, but it takes one person to keep it all together and meet all the deadlines. The Mayor received wonderful feedback from Cleveland Magazine about what a tremendous job she did. Ms. Root also was responsible for coordinating the Memorial Day festivities and although the weather was bad, she didn't skip a beat throughout the weekend. Michelle often tries to run under the radar, but we all really appreciate all the work that she did to manage all the moving parts.

Mayor Bobst shared that the Taste of Rocky River was a beautiful evening. They received notice from the Chamber of Commerce that there were approximately 9,000-10,000 attendees. They provide wristbands which is used as a headcount. People were enthusiastic about all the different food stands. She noted that it was an uneventful event with only one incident related to the heat. There was a great deal of police presence, but considering some of the things happening at gatherings the Police Chief and Chamber of Commerce felt that having a presence was good. In addition, police presence is good for community policing and community outreach. She thanked the Police Department, surrounding Police Departments, and the SWAT Team through the Westshore Enforcement Bureau for keeping everyone safe.

Mayor Bobst advised that there is a Board of Education meeting on June 24th at 6:30 pm. At that meeting they will be honoring the Lacrosse team for their success during the state tournament. The Mayor will draft a proclamation on behalf of City Council and the Administration, and she will be presenting it that evening. They are also working on some signage for the entrances of the City to acknowledge their achievements,

the Girls Soccer team, and perhaps a Track and Field team from the 1920's.

Mayor Bobst noted that on Friday there was a fire at Cliff Towers. It is a large building with a lot of tenants, but between the Police and Fire Departments they did a good job, extinguishing it quickly. Unfortunately, it displaced 3 residents from three units. She spoke with a couple residents following the incident and they were very pleased with the response not only to extinguish the fire, but to be mindful of the water and the damage that water can do and their ability to leave the elevator functioning. It was a thoughtful well-coordinated response on the part of our first responders.

Mayor Bobst advised that the Beachcliff-Cornwall the sewer improvement project information will be provided in their packets next week. They had three bids and Fabrizi is the apparent low bidder, and they came in below the engineer's estimate by approximately \$200,000.

Mayor Bobst advised that they will be sending a ReadyNotify from the Building Department about the need for residents to check their contractor's registrations. All construction contractors, no matter their discipline, are to be registered with the City of Rocky River. Residents need to make sure they are registered with the City, ensure they have pulled all the appropriate permits, and that they post the permits correctly. They are having issues with contractors not pulling permits and residents being unaware. This was brought on by a BZA meeting last week where there were individuals that the Building Department found constructing projects which required a variance. This puts the BZA in the difficult position of telling these residents to remove the work that was completed as they weren't inclined to grant the variance. The administration's hope is that if residents are more informed, they can eliminate this issue in the future. She proceeded to share some Building Department statistics. Through May there have been 724 Permits issued (both residential and commercial) compared to 618 last year with a total valuation of \$35.5 million as compared to \$20.5 Million. They're seeing an increase in both residential and commercial projects.

- Ms. Morris inquired if it would be possible to list the registered contractors on the website so that the residents have way to check a valued source to see if a contractor is registered.
- Mayor Bobst advised that she thinks is a great idea and will check with the Building Department tomorrow. She added that these inspections and permits are to protect the residents and their investments. They want trained eyes on the work, inspecting it according to the International Building Code which protects their investment.

Mayor Bobst reported that she is grateful and happy to have received a Coastal Management Assistance Grant for \$65,000 for Rocky River Park which will be used to take that project to the next step. This will be used to formalize the erosion control at the Lakefront off the parking lot.

Mayor Bobst noted that RTA has started a new program they'd like everyone to share with residents. They are launching an Account Based Ticketing (ABT) program that has a smart card and fair capping program with a goal of making riding easier and more affordable throughout the service area. With fair capping riders will pay until they meet the cap which can be for a day, month, or a 7-day cap. Once you reach that cap they will no longer pay. Anyone who is interested can go on to their website at riderta.com and receive more information about the program.

Mayor Bobst announced that the radishes and lettuce have been harvested for the first time at the community garden and greenhouse and she's happy to report they were used at the Garden Grille at the Senior Center. She noted that it is a wonderful multigenerational program with a great group of gardeners.

Mayor Bobst advised that the Heritage Home Loan Program will be held Wednesday June 17th at 6:00 pm at the Civic Center. Additionally, through the Cleveland Restoration Society website, if you sign up by

Thursday June 25th you can watch a zoom meeting that will provide the same information.

Mayor Bobst announced that on Friday the CLE Market and all their vendors will be at the City Hall Park from 4-8 pm with a concert at 6:00 pm. The Summer Stroll, in the Old Detroit shopping area, will be held on Thursday June 25th from 4-7pm with music, refreshments, specials, shopping, and giveaways.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 52-25: Mr. Hunt advised that there is no new information on 52-25. He noted that they will continue to discuss proposed legislation on eBikes which they're viewing as companion legislation.

Resolution No. 31-26: President Shipp advised that 31-26 is an Emergency Resolution authorizing the Mayor to apply for and administer funds from the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission Community Planning Services Program for the Detroit Road Corridor Strategic Plan and Streetscape Design Standards Project. This is a resolution to support their application for assistance from the County. They are looking for assistance establishing streetscaping standards for Detroit Rd. between Lakeview and Wooster including old Detroit. This is an important commercial corridor, but there is not currently a cohesive plan for new development to make it a welcoming destination. A plan would provide guidelines for future improvements. Mr. Shipp shared with Council the application to the County which gives a lot more detail about the project and what it seeks to do. Recently in the last few years, the corridor has experienced substantial private investment, reinvestment and redevelopment activity. Despite this momentum, the corridor lacks a cohesive visual identity and coordinated framework for future improvements. Streetscape elements, pedestrian amenities, parking areas, signage and landscaping are somewhat inconsistent throughout. The city is seeking professional planning and technical assistance to prepare a comprehensive corridor plan and streetscape design framework for Detroit Road between Lakeview Road and Wooster Road including Old Detroit. The scope of the work would include a review of prior corridor studies and planning documents, analysis of existing conditions, stakeholder and public engagement, conceptual streetscape planning and preparation of implementation orientated recommendations. Key planning issues will include sidewalks and crosswalks, street trees and landscaping, pedestrian scale lighting, public art, wayfinding, street furniture, stormwater management, parking strategies and traffic signal improvements. The city would like to complete the planning effort in the summer of 2027 to establish a clear framework for future implementation, capital improvements, and development of review activities.

Resolution No. 32-26: Mr. Shipp said this is their annual resolution establishing that Rocky River City Council will recess during the month of August.

Resolution No. 33-26: Mr. Furry advised that this is a resolution accepting the Alternative Tax Budget Information of the City of Rocky River, Ohio for the Fiscal Year Commencing January 1, 2027, noting that this is the first step and not the final one. This is not the actual budget that the Administration will be working on for 2027. All political subdivisions excluding school districts must file one copy of this with the County Fiscal officer on or before July 29th per ORC 5705.281. This is cursory and is basically a historical flat income and known expenses.

Resolution No. 34-26: Mr. Furry advised that this is an annual resolution and is the second step in the 2027 budget process with the first step being 33-26. This certifies the tax rate millage for both inside and outside the 10-mil limitation with the Cuyahoga County Budget commission and is also required in ORC 5705. There are no changes to the current 9.9 mils to the city from the previous year.

Resolution No. 35-26: Mr. Furry advised that this resolution is also an annual resolution requesting to advance taxes from Cuyahoga County for Tax Year 2026. It is asking the County to give the City our

money up to two months earlier in January and February instead of waiting up to two months for final reconciliation and late March or early April. Due to scheduling conflicts with the Ohio Department of Taxation in certifying property values, as well as changes to Ohio property laws, the Cuyahoga County fiscal office will not be honoring request for advances effective for 2027. Per our Finance Director many other governmental entities in Cuyahoga county have expressed valid concerns over cashflow issues that this will initiate. ORC Section 321.34 a 1 states: “When the local authorities by resolution so request, the county auditor shall pay township fiscal officers, treasurers of municipal corporations, the treasurer of any board of education, and the treasurer of any other political subdivision or taxing district whose funds derived from taxes or other sources are payable by law to the county treasurer, any money that may be in the county treasury to the accounts of the local authorities, respectively, and lawfully applicable to the purpose of the current fiscal year in which the request is made.” Mr. Furry defers to the Law Director to opine that the keyword in all of that section is ‘shall’ and not ‘may’ and they are duly authorized to make disbursements upon submittal of said resolution. He hopes they honor their request.

Ordinance No. 36-26: Mr. Moran advised that this is an Emergency Ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Safety-Service to enter into an agreement with Bonded Chemical, Inc. This ordinance was presented last year for Alexander Chemical who bid it at \$1.89 and then refused to honor their agreement. In the meantime, the City went back to Bonded Chemical, and they presented a price of \$1.81. Bonded Chemical was the WWTP last supplier and they stepped up and honored this new lower price. The product of Sodium Hypochlorite is a bleach type material that kills infectious materials in the summertime. They absolutely need it as soon as possible. The director mentioned he can buy some things on the market, but there is no reason. Mr. Moran believes they should go ahead and pass it since they’ve already passed it at \$1.89 so they should be able to pass it at \$1.81. Next week he plans to present and waive the three-read rule.

Ordinance No. 37-26: Mr. Moran advised this ordinance is to purchase some equipment from Huber Technology to make a repair to a screen. They have a series of five screens that should be able to work and one of the screens is down. If they have a severe storm and they only have three screens working, then some of the water may back up into homes. They want to make sure to repair this screening process. Director Barille has advised that the cost of repairing this as opposed to getting a new system is far more affordable. It’s an expensive screen, but it’s an important part and they can only get it through Huber. The quote is \$115,000 but sometimes they get into that and there is a situation where something else comes up, the WWTP wants to guard themselves with an additional \$25,000 in the hopes that they won’t need it.

Resolution No. 38-26: Mr. Furry advised that Resolution 38-26 and 39-26 are related, but different. 38-26 is for sidewalk reconstruction repairs or replacement. If you did not utilize your own contractor for said work the City paid all expenses and labor costs for the work. Last week the city sent out letters to all affected property owners requesting payment by July 13, 2026. Unlike the sewer account exhibit this list is not exhaustive and he expects to amend by substitution at the July 27 meeting with a trimmed down list. The cost of repairs varies from major to minor.

Resolution No. 39-26: Mr. Furry advised that this is their annual delinquent sewer accounts as of 12/31/25 that will be certified to the property owners’ taxes. Like 38-26 letters went out June 12th requesting payment by July 13th. They are just a little shy of 500 parcels to be assessed – some figures are significant and some not so much. As is customary with this resolution he expects to amend by substitution July 27 with a hopeful bountiful collection process. He noted that there have been some rumblings of legislation taking this authority away from municipalities which he hopes does not get any traction. Unlike other utilities you cannot shut down sewer for non-payment.

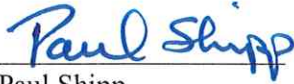
- President Shipp summarized that property owners who don’t make payment by the time they vote on this resolution will get an assessment on their property taxes to collect the extra amount that comes back to the City.

- Mr. Furry confirmed that to be correct and noted that the County charges them a nominal fee of 1%.
- Mr. Moran mentioned that the fee is \$25 regardless of the amount of the bill and inquired if there was a way to charge more to ensure the penalty is appropriate.
- Director Lindow noted that these balances already take into account the 10% penalty that they tack onto the fees on a quarterly basis if already past due.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: NONE

President Shipp advised that next week's meeting June 22 will be a Legislative Meeting. The following Monday June 29th is the 5th Monday so there will be no meeting. Monday July 6th is a Committee of the Whole meeting and as it follows the July 4th holiday weekend, they will not hold a meeting unless something comes up. He outlined that in July they will have legislative meetings on the 13th and 27th and a Committee of the Whole July 20th.

As there was no further business, President Shipp adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.



Paul Shipp
President of Council



Lauren Oley
Clerk of Council